

## **Cheshire Pan Disability Squad End of Season Report 2025**



*Chris Edwards Representing England Mixed Disability Team with Player of the Match v India in 7th Vitality T20 international. England beat India 6-1 in the series*

### **End of Season intro with Team Director Chris Edwards BEM**

Another Successful year for our teams in terms of development and growth of our squad.

For the first time in 2025 we have 4 squads that are now playing in ECB competition.

Over the winter, developments in the game from ECB changed some aspect of how we operate our teams bringing in CORE values to help with giving our team an identity. Also, Super 9's Competition seen the reintroduction of National Knock out cricket.

This was also Cheshire Pan Disability Squads 25<sup>th</sup> Year of existence which was celebrated at New Brighton Cricket Club seeing Super 1's Festival, Cheshire Cobras take on New Brighton Club Members, Cheshire

Cougars S9's v Cheshire Leopards and return of some of the Past players to play against our current D40 squad members.

All games played in good spirit on a extremely hot Bank Holiday Monday also we were able to raise funds for the Cheshire cricket trust with different stores just off the field in

the pavilion and able to raise £470 as a thank you for the trusts support to our disability teams over the years.

Our teams had mixed year across the board but showed good progress and were competitive in every game. Starting with New Promoted D40 Quest Hardball Squad who just missed out on finishing top of the North/Midland Group thanks to the rain at Wesham and Kirkham which denied the opportunity to see a good game of cricket. Cheshire Leopards progress well in the season and seen them win their final game v cheshire Cougars. The Newly formed Cheshire Bobcats captained by Matthew O'Connell who did a great job in captaining the team, Unfortunately the team did not win a single game. The Cheshire Cougars Squad had a good season seeing them go 5 wins out of 6 games Winning the North Group Unfortunately in the national semi-final seen them bowled out for 34 v a very strong Middlesex team.

2025 Also seen Wicket Keeper Max Griffin and left arm spinner Kieron McKinney represent Cheshire in the DPL Max playing for Tridents who went on to Win the competition, and Kieron for Black Cats.

2026 promises to be a better year than 2025 throughout the county for disability cricket, this winter for the first time anywhere in the country we are running an elite/emerging player programme running in line with the National Squads in how they train and prepare for matches. Also, for first time in nearly 15 years we will be having the S9's squads and emerging D40 hardball players training every Wednesday before Christmas and every Sunday after Christmas to give the teams more accesses to training and regular coaching.

#### Thank you

I would like to thank my coaching and management team for their hard work over the season, without them, we don't have training sessions or matches that take place the planning that goes to each game is not worth mentioning as will be going through every detail for hours.

To the Scorers, Sandra, Angela and Rebecca, thank you for all your efforts without you, matches don't take place. So once again thank you.

Also, to the cricket clubs that hosted us throughout the year Caldy, Neston, New Brighton, Frodsham, Barrow and Macclesfield.

Finally, David Quaife will be standing down as president after 20 years in post, David will continue to be one of our photographers moving forward and continue to be advisor to the squads. I would like to thank David personally for the support he has shown over the years in position as chairman and later as president.

Look forward to seeing everyone in the winter and throughout the 2026 season.

Chris Edwards BEM

## **Cheshire D40 QUEST**

Our first season Back in the top division since 2018 after all the hardwork rebuilding our D40 Hardball team, with winning last season's D40 pursuit competition, our main aim was to be competitive in the North Division which seen us grouped with Lancashire, Yorkshire, Shropshire, and Wales.

New arrival over the winter seen Stan Pennington joins the D40 Quest squad for 2025 as an extra seam bowler.

Our first game was against Lancashire at New Brighton cricket club which was a very warm late April day. We lost the toss and put out to bowl first, we did well to keep Lancashire under 220 however we fell short after being 101-1 slipping to 110-5 an opportunity lost. Good knock from Dom Develing getting 70 Unfortunately falling 46 short.

We then moved on to the Wales Game at Neston Cricket Club, a couple of last minute injuries and unavailability seen head coach and England Mixed Disability international Chris Edwards come into the side last minute with availability being limited due to new playing regulations and didn't disappoint with a fine masterclass in patient batting glued the innings together with a fine 76 not out supported by Sam Gilham with 30 and Math Abraham with 39 helping us to 182 off our 40 overs. A good bowling performance helped bowl out Wales for 122.

A few weeks break then seen us into June for a few away trips first to Yorkshire, in a reduced overs match to 31 overs due to weather. Yorkshire batted first seeing them score 220-6 including a fine 122 from Owen Morris, this was the first time we got things totally wrong in the field and with the ball with poor execution and dropping the player who went on to get a 100 on 42, this was a reality check for our squad on how brutal the quest league is. The chase, we were always in it until we went 5 down with 4 to go getting to 180 40 short of their total. For us it was 2 games where we haven't been tight in the field or executed our plans well.

While I was away for the first ever mixed disability international series, our squad headed to South Wales to play the return game in the league. Some key performances, from Sully Malik, Sam Gilham contributions from Nathan Gee, Dom Develing, and Lewis Foran, we managed to stay ahead of the rate, as the rain came down.

July 6<sup>th</sup> Was a fixture v Shropshire at Barrow in Chester; we were presented with a green top wicket which was uncovered from the day before. Winning the toss and electing to bowl we bowled Shropshire out for 105, with wickets from, McKinney, Malik 3 each with 2 from Finley Ellis. The run chase lasted 10.3 overs finishing 111 - 3 thanks to a fine 85 Not out from Josh Brown coming in 37 balls 12 x 4's 5 x 6's winning our 3<sup>rd</sup> game by 7 wickets.

Our last fixture came v Lancashire @ Kirkham and Wesham cricket club, a win would see us in a national final, we were put into bat with rain around meaning Lancs would have control of the game our job was simply put a score on the board and defend. We got off to a decent start, with Josh and Ben accelerating from the get-go with rain breaks bringing us on and off. We only managed to get 5 overs in before rain won the day and our hopes of reaching a national final. Well done to Lancashire who went on to win the County Championship.

Overall, our first season back in the topflight was a learning one and a successful one in terms of where we finished, there is a lot of potential with this squad to push further and with the EPP programme over the winter will see players, push their cricket further.

Chris Edwards  
D40 Head coach and Team Director.



## **CHESHIRE BOBCATS**

For the first time Cheshire have put 2 ECB teams out in competition, this team is mixing experience with youth to create a learning and enjoyable environment. Unfortunately, the squad lost all 6 matches, however it was very encouraging how the squad was able to be competitive in all matches.

Mathew O'Connell was appointed Captain of the team. A very experienced player, who gives 100% to everything he does.

The first game was against Derbyshire away who are a very strong side, Derbyshire won the toss and elected to field, we were bowled out for 114, with a fine 43 not out from Sam Gilham, Derbyshire knocked the runs off 2 down inside 21 overs. Wickets for Harrison and Marsden.

Game 2 seen us at Neston CC against Yorkshire, we won the toss and elected to field, Yorkshire were bowled out for 207 inside 36 overs a fine bowling performance from Stephen Redfern 7.3 overs 3 maidens 5 wickets 22 runs.

Our run chase was dying off 61-7 however thanks to contributions from Ben Glynn 33no despite fighting with hay fever, Matt O'Connell with a fine 39 and Jonathan Verma undefeated with 9no off 65 balls seeing us bat 40 overs scoring 151-8 56 runs short.

Game 3 Warwickshire away only 9 players available for this match. the side put up a good fight after being put into bat. We were bowled out for 112 inn the 38<sup>th</sup> over. Runs coming from Stephen Redfern 33 and Math Abraham 23. We put up a good fight in the field with Warwickshire chasing the total 5 wickets down. 4 wickets for Matthew O'Connell.

Game 4 v Derbyshire at home, at Macclesfield, which proved to be a tough day for everyone with a very young side against a very experienced Derbyshire team. Derbyshire won the toss and elected to bat and went on to score 281/5 off 40 overs. 2 wickets for Lewis Foran, and one each for Euan, Jonathan and Sean. The batting didn't go to plan as we were skittled for 60 inside 20 overs.

Game 5 was against Yorkshire away and sadly we only had 8 players for this game. We won the toss and elected to bat, on a hot and muggy day, a fine 75 from Ben Glynn, and 20 from Math Abraham got us to 170, Yorkshire chased this down only losing 2 wickets with only 8 fielders this was always going to be a challenge.

Last Game v Lancashire, at Neston seen a 10 a side game between 2 sides who continue to develop cricket within their respective counties. Uncontested toss seen Lancs Bat first and score 255/5 off their 40 overs, highlight from the bowlers was Jonathan Verma, 3 wickets.

Batting we put a good fight scoring 129 in 21 overs before, being bowled out. Highlight was Sean Stevenson scoring 48 with some fine striking.

A challenging first season with a lot of changes in the side for each game hopefully a more structured team going into next season will see the team progress further.

Massive thanks go to Stewart Garnett, Martin Othick and George Marsden who took the team for the games I was away for.

Overall, a key message to our hardball squads is this team plays in ECB competition and is as valuable as the Quest division. It's important that players stand up show they can perform in these games, to be asked to play in the Quest team. I would like to see more commitment from members of this squad particularly for away matches, you know who you are!

Finally, I would like to welcome to the hardball team Martin Othick and George Marsden as Joint Head coaches of the team.

Thanks Again

Chris Edwards  
D40 Head Coach



## **CHESHIRE COUGARS**

### **S9's North Regional Winners Played 7 Won 5 Lost 2**

#### **Cheshire cougars 2025 season review**

Yet another successful season for Cheshire Cougars winning the regional division and reaching a national semi-final. We saw players develop on and off the field and saw new players seamlessly fit into the squad. The spirit in the team was excellent, led by Matthew Othick with an experienced group of senior players assisting him. Following a structured winter training program, we kicked off the season at the end of April

#### **First game of the season - Cheshire Cougars vs Cheshire Leopards, 27<sup>th</sup> April (Win)**

Cheshire Cougars 203/4.

Cheshire Leopards 125/7. Won the toss and elected to field first.

##### **Batting summary**

Alex M. got fifty runs opening with Corban -he got thirty-four runs, with an opening partnership of 142.

##### **Bowling summary**

Ronnie A bowled four overs/ 6 runs and got two wickets.

Jack S got a wicket on debut.

#### **Second game of the season - Cheshire Cougars Vs Lancashire 11<sup>th</sup> May at Macclesfield CC (W)**

Lancs – 97/7 30 overs, (elected to bat first)

Cheshire Cougars 98/2 16. Overs

Euan Walton on debut bowled 3 for 16 off 4 overs

Mickey M bowled well for 1/12 off 4 overs.

Duane H also bowled 0/12 off 5 overs.

##### **Batting highlights**

Oliver B got 25 runs.

Callum H on debut got 11 runs.

Sophie also got 12 runs.

#### **Third game of the season - North Wales Macs VS Cheshire Cougars 25<sup>th</sup> May at Llandudno CC (W)**

Cougars won the toss and batted first. 203/2 30.

Alex M hit another 50 with Oliver B getting his maiden 50.

North Wales replied with 191/5 with three run outs. Harry N with two and Jack S with one

Callum H bowled six overs for twenty-five with 1 wicket

Matthew O bowled six overs for 26 runs with 1 wicket.

**Fourth game of the season - Lancs vs Cheshire Cougars 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Kirkham CC (W)**

Lancs elected to field first.

Cheshire Cougars. 167/4 26 overs. The game was shortened due to rain.

Batting highlights

Alex and Corban both got 50s

Lancashire got 127/8.

Leam F got 3 wickets

And M Othick got 1.

With everyone fielding well and taking some good catches. It was a good all-round effort despite the heavy rain.

**Fifth game of the season - Cheshire Cougars Vs Yorkshire 29<sup>th</sup> June (W).**

Cheshire won the toss and bowled first.

Yorkshire got 142/7 off thirty overs.

Cheshire Cougars 144/6 29.1 overs.

Bowling highlights

Ronnie A got 3 wickets.

Will P bowled tightly with figures of 6 overs for twenty-six.

Yorkshire were 24-4.

Then at the end of the innings Leam got 2 wickets.

Batting highlights

Alex M got his 4<sup>th</sup> fifty of the season.

Matthew O and Johnny had thirty-six partnership and then Jack F hit the winning runs in a tight game

**Sixth game of the season - Cheshire Leopards Vs Cheshire Cougars. 6<sup>th</sup> July at Frodsham CC (L)**

Cheshire cougars elected to field first.

Cheshire leopards got 161/ 3 30 overs.

Cheshire Cougars 141/7 30 overs

Bowling highlights

Ptolemy Ellis bowled two overs for twelve runs.

Alex M bowled four overs for ten runs and got two wickets.

Batting highlights with batting order mixed up

Oliver opened and got twenty-eight runs. Ptolemy E batted and got ten runs.

Jack S and Matthew O had a partnership of seventy-one runs. Matthew O top scored with thirty runs.

**Semi-final against Middlesex 27<sup>th</sup> July (L)**

Cheshire Cougars won the toss and batted first.

Cougars 34/10 (20.2) overs

Alex top scored with twelve runs

Middlesex 35/1 6.3 overs

Bowling highlights

Matthew O got one wicket.

**Top three run scorers-**

Alex Marsden- 216

Oliver Bratley- 120

Corban Jones- 102

**Top three wicket takers**

Ronnie Abbott and Leam Fox- 5 wickets

Matthew Othick- 4 wickets

Callum Holmes- 3 wickets.

Thank you for all the players involved in the 2025 season.

Matthew Othick (C)

Alex Marsden (VC)

Jack Stoker

Corban Jones

Ronnie Abbot

Sophie Coyne

Harry Nugent

Leam Fox

Ptomey Ellis

Ollie Bratley

Callum Holmes

Callum Warren-Moore

Johnny Gatley

Will Potts

Jack Frances

Mickey Munday

Duane Henderson

Euan Walton

Thanks to everyone involved this season especially to Martin, George & Chris for keeping the team motivated and helping the team to win the league again and get to another play-off game.

Thanks also to Angela Smith, Andrew Ellis and Sandra Mason for scoring at various games during the season and to David Quaife for photos.

Finally, thanks to all the parents and carers and everyone who helps and supports Cheshire disability cricket.



## **CHESHIRE LEOPARDS** **2025 Season Review**

A first season in for me coaching the Leopards, and what an amazing experience it has been. All the players have been a complete joy to manage, and the team spirit we developed truly amazed me as it grew week on week. I made a conscious decision to make sure we discussed and embraced disability rather than ignoring it. With having 2 players who needed runners because of their mobility I made sure we discussed as a team, that when fielding we make sure we remember that, so never putting those players, or anyone else for that matter who may have mobility issues because of injury etc, next to each other, ensuring that everyone knew they had to do the running for the people who cant. This group of players embraced that. One of our players has one very weak hand, so we discussed that if she takes a catch that the closest players should get there and make sure they get the ball before it falls if she has caught it with her arms. This team embraced that. This is a team full of amazing individuals who together are a truly amazing team. I have laughed and smiled so much this and that is thanks to the players I have had the pleasure of coaching.

Tough Start to the season facing the cougars and really showing start of season rustiness. However, it wasn't all bad news. Oscar Woodall getting his first wicket for Cheshire with a catch from Alfie Williams behind the stumps after he agreed to take the gloves for half the innings. Oscar also getting a great throw to Alfie for a run out along with Will Potts getting 2 wickets and the fielding was fantastic, with the introduction of Jack Frances to the group who appeared to be everywhere the ball went, he never stopped running. It wasn't our best day with the bat, but we batted out all the overs and Jack Frances continued his bright start top scoring with 17.

We then hosted a talented North Wales side, and the scoreboard really doesn't tell the true story. A depleted side having lost several players to the cougars, Lilly Smith playing when she struggled to run so we had 10 players. It was a really hot day, the outfield was big and fast and with a player short and not the most mobile of fields we bowled and fielded valiantly, and the 230 North Wales got was almost so different had the ball from their best batsman travelled 3 inches further into Craigs hand, and we all know Craig doesn't drop the ball. Unfortunately, he then went on to score 50 and was a major part in their score. Notable mention needs to go to Alfie Williams in that innings with 2 catches 2 run outs and bowling their opening batsman. George Mason in his first game for us bowled brilliantly and Dan Butler also got his first wicket which brought huge delight to everyone, again showing how close this team are. The chase started well with Alfie doing exactly as I asked getting to 49 and hitting a 6 so he could retire on the highest possible 55, Will Potts also retiring with 51, always behind the rate a despite a resilient 24 not out from Oscar to record his highest score we never got in a position to seriously challenge for the win

Then we hosted Lancashire, Craig Kearney with his first wicket of the season was met with the same adulation as Dan the game before. We bowled and fielded really well in this game and despite only getting 3 wickets with Oscar Woodall getting his first double, we kept the score down really well, if not for a couple of questionable retirements, the

total would have been very gettable, and we probably would have won. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be but with 30 from Will Potts and 43 not out from Jack Frances we ran them very close. Lancashire went on to record their first victory at Super 9s level and as disappointing as it was to lose, it was nice to see how much it meant to Lancashire, and again our team were amazing ambassadors for Cheshire cricket showing amazing respect to the Lancashire celebrations and showing some genuine happiness for them which was really wonderful to see.

We then travelled to North Wales and were involved in a game where we had to spend some time off the field for the rain in another game where we played valiantly but didn't quite make it over the line, but again with the attitude and team spirit shown by the players you wouldn't know we hadn't won yet this season. I don't have the scorecard to this game and can't remember many details other than we only had 10 players because we found a weakness in the Spond messaging capabilities, and we found Jack Frances parents magic tent became quite popular in the rain.

We hosted the Cougars at my home ground of Frodsham for what turned out to be our final game of the season. Batting first for the first time this season we posted 161-2. Euan Walton opened the batting for me and scored a brilliant 46 not out, Will Potts scoring 23, Jack Frances walking off the field really angry with himself after getting a golden duck, refused to listen to me when I told him it didn't matter he could help us win the game in the 2<sup>nd</sup> innings, but that brought captain Dylan Buckley to the crease to put his lack of form behind him to play a captain innings of 33 not out to then give us something to defend. We then went out and gave a performance I was so proud of, the fielding as a group was amazing, led as always by Jack Frances who realised that he should always listen to me when he bowled brilliantly as well and when he took a wicket in his first over it set the ball rolling. The fielding was exceptional keeping the cougars down to only 9 boundaries which proved the key, Oscar Woodall going for just 2 an over, Jenna Pomfret with her first wickets of the season claiming 2 and again sending the team into raptures. Mikey Munday with his best performance behind the stumps I have seen and then bowled brilliantly Euan and Dan bowling fantastically and keeping the runs down too. Will Potts with 2 wickets in 3 very economical overs at the end including the final over, however a huge mention for Jamie O'Grady bowling the penultimate over and keeping the game out of reach meaning Wills final over was stress free. We got over the line to get the victory that had alluded us all season and it was no more than they deserved.

The final game vs Yorkshire was cancelled because of the rain and the ended a very very enjoyable season.

Award Winners

Will Potts Batting

Oscar Woodall Bowling

Most Improved Jamie O'Grady

Spirit of Cricket Dan Butler

Big thanks to all the organisers and Ange for doing all the boring stuff and leaving me just to enjoy the cricket.

